

SustainVU

Growing Responsibly

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National Walking Day – April 1

Take the first step to a healthier and more sustainable life by taking part in the American Heart Association's National Walking Day on the first Wednesday in April. On this day, Americans are encouraged to lace up their sneakers and take 30 minutes out of their day to get up and walk. More details [here](#).

Engage Green: Small-Scale Gardening Techniques – April 1

Have you ever wanted to learn how to grow your own food, even without having tons of space to do it? On April 1 at 6:00pm at the Goodwill Lifsey Center, join [Team Green](#) and [Urban Green Lab](#) to learn about how to create small-scale gardens for any budget! With the support of [Gardens of Babylon](#), the workshop will cover the benefits of growing your own food, and will provide you with an instructional discussion of how to make your own small-scale garden. More details and RSVP [here](#).

Rand Produce Stand – April 2 & 16

On Thursday, April 2 and Thursday, April 16, support local food by stopping by Rand Terrace for

Vanderbilt Dining's Rand Produce Stand!

MTA Strategic Plan Community Meetings – April 7

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

This month, everyone celebrates Earth Day on April 22nd, but Vanderbilt will be celebrating our own historic achievement of eliminating coal use at the Vanderbilt power plant on April 9th! Join Chancellor Zeppos, Provost Wentz, Vice Chancellor Kopstain, VSG President Owen, and Asst Vice Chancellor Mark Petty to hear about progress on the power plant conversion project, view historic photos of campus, and have a little sustainable and delicious nosh. Nashville's big Earth Day event will take place on Saturday, April 18th, in Centennial Park. Make sure to stop by to enjoy the live entertainment and take part in the many planned activities. Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook](#) page. Have an earth-friendly April, and good luck to all our students on their finals!

Andrea George, Director
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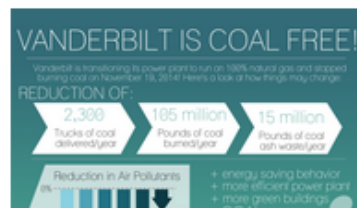


Vanderbilt is coal free! Celebrate with us on April 9th

On November 19, 2014, the Vanderbilt co-generation power plant burned its last piece of coal! You are invited to a celebration of this historic achievement on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 4:10pm. The [event](#) will be held on the patio outside Sarratt Cinema with a reception to follow in Sarratt Cinema Gallery. Remarks will be made by Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos, Provost Susan R. Wentz, Vice Chancellor Eric Kopstain, Assistant Vice Chancellor Mark Petty, and VSG President Tanner Owen. The event will be moved indoors to Sarratt Cinema if weather is unfavorable.

Demolition is now complete on the concrete silo which once stored coal for the plant. The iconic exhaust stack and other coal infrastructure will be demolished as part of a broader renovation to modernize the plant this spring.

The plant, which produces 23 percent of Vanderbilt's electricity, 90 percent of its heat and 40 percent of its cooling, now runs exclusively



The Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) will kick off the first phase of a year-long strategic planning process with a round of community meetings on Tuesday, April 7. The meetings will feature an overview of the process by consultants and an interactive session allowing participants to define their values and principles surrounding transit. This will be the first of a series of three large community meetings to be held in the next year. The first meeting will be held from 11:30am-1:30pm at the Nashville Public Library Main Branch, and the second meeting that day will be held from 6:00-7:00pm at the North Police Precinct. More details [here](#).

Climate Connections – April 7

Climate Connections, a conference hosted by Vanderbilt Students Promoting Environmental Awareness (SPEAR), aims to spark meaningful discussion about the intersection of sustainability and student life. Join a panel of professors from diverse disciplines who will be leading this important conversation on April 7 at 6:30pm, in the Kissam Center. The event will be mediated by Amanda Little, a Writer-in-Residence in the English Department who has a background in investigative journalism and environmental politics. More details [here](#).

Coal Free Vanderbilt Celebration – April 9

Vanderbilt is coal free! You are invited to a celebration of this historic achievement on April 9 at 4:10pm on the patio outside Sarratt Cinema. Remarks will be made by Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos, Provost Susan

R. Wente, Vice Chancellor Eric Kopstain, Assistant Vice Chancellor Mark Petty, and VSG President Tanner Owen. Reception to follow in Sarratt Cinema Gallery. The event will be moved indoors to Sarratt Cinema if weather is unfavorable. More details [here](#).

Second Annual Spring Cleaning Day– April 11

Join [Cumberland River Compact](#) for the Second Annual Spring Cleaning Day! Celebrate Earth Month with the

on natural gas. The decommissioning of the plant's last coal boiler brings the power plant's 126-year reliance on coal to an end.

The environmental benefits of the conversion are significant.

Greenhouse gas emissions—the carbon footprint of the power plant—will go down by as much as 40 percent. The conversion will also decrease the emission of particulate matter by more than 50 percent and virtually eliminates emissions of mercury, hydrogen chloride, sulfur dioxide and other air pollutants.

Read more about the power plant conversion [here](#).

Cheap wind power? Just listen to turbines talk to each other, say researchers



[Doug Adams](#) and his [team](#) of engineers.

The measurements taken inside a Vanderbilt University wind tunnel could hold the key to making wind power a viable, cost effective energy source in the future, according to Vanderbilt Professor

Inside a massive 20,000 square foot laboratory, Adams and his team fitted inertial sensors on two turbines as a 30mph wind blasts inside a tunnel. His goal is to “listen in as the turbines talk to each other”.

“Every time a blade moves we are monitoring it and that tells us something about that conversation that is happening from one turbine to the next,” said Adams, a professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

That conversation could offer clues on how the wake effect of one turbine influences the performance of another. The changes in a single turbine's efficiency due to wake effect is incredibly small, but in a wind farm that has 100 turbines, those tiny changes could add up significantly, Adams explains.

According to the data, the sensors could significantly increase the productivity of established wind farms while helping design future farms that produce more electricity with fewer turbines, another piece of the puzzle that will ultimately drive down the cost of wind energy while utilizing less land for its production.

Read the full story from Reuters [here](#).

This spring, look for the safer choice label

Last month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



greatest stream cleanup effort this city has ever seen! Volunteers will conduct stream cleanups at 20+ locations in Davidson County. You can sign up as a volunteer individually or as a group. Celebrate after the cleanup at the Cumberland River Center. More details and register [here](#).

Urban Agriculture Series: Foodscaping with Nashville Foodscapes – April 11

Learn about the diversity of edible landscape plants that thrive in Middle TN in this workshop April 11 at 11:00am at the Little House Nashville (208 Elmington Ave). This workshop is part of [Urban Green Lab's](#) Urban Agriculture Series and will be led by Jeremy Lekich from [Nashville Foodscapes](#). More details and RSVP [here](#).

Nashville Earth Day Festival – April 18

Nashville's Earth Day Festival is a free, family friendly event with live entertainment throughout the day. This year's festival will help the community take another step toward Mayor Karl Dean's goal of making Nashville the greenest city in the Southeast. The event will feature exhibits and activities aimed at educating Nashvillians about protecting our environment. Nearly a hundred family-friendly booths, which are hosted by community groups,

environmental organizations and government agencies, will offer fun and exciting hands-on activities for all ages. The festival will also feature a recycling center for mercury thermometers and expired/unused pharmaceuticals. More details [here](#).

Earth Day – April 22

Celebrate the 45th Earth Day Anniversary on April 22! The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, included 20 million Americans from all walks of life and is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement. More than 1 billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world. Read how you can take part [here](#).

(EPA) unveiled a new [Safer Choice label](#), which makes it easier to find household cleaners and other home products that are safer, more environmentally friendly—and still get the job done.



We all play a role in protecting our families' health and the environment. Products with the Safer Choice label help consumers and commercial buyers identify and select products with safer chemical ingredients, without sacrificing quality or performance.

For the past 15 years EPA's label for safer chemical products has been known as the Design for the Environment, or the "DfE," label. The result of over a year of work is the new Safer Choice label. The Safer Choice standard which was designed to include three categories: consumer products, industrial and institutional products, and the all-new fragrance-free products.

More details on the Safer Choice label [here](#).

Remember these earth-friendly move-out tips!

With the hustle and bustle of finishing up the semester, moving out can be a hectic process of trying to fit a year's worth of items into cars, suitcases, and storage. For all the items that don't fit, Vanderbilt's Earth Friendly Move Out provides opportunities to keep a large volume of material out of the landfill while helping others at the same time.

Donate: The Office of Housing and Residential Education ([OHARE](#)) will have donation locations set up at all campus residence halls benefiting a variety of [non-profit charities](#). You can donate many items, including old textbooks, clothing, and furniture, at any of these locations or post them on Vandy [FreeSwap](#)!

Recycle: In addition to donating, there are many convenient locations on campus for recycling common items. Please drop off your broken electronics, tablets, computers, and appliances in the specially [designated areas](#) outdoors around the residence halls that are set up only during move out.



For more traditional recycling items such as plastic, paper (including textbooks), aluminum, glass and flattened cardboard, students are encouraged to use the residential recycling areas [located](#) near each residence hall rather than throwing items away.

Ingram's sustainable transport on waterways

By: Harold W. Madison of TDEC

**Ton-miles Traveled
per Gallon of Fuel**

Common modalities
considered in
sustainable

National Arbor Day – April 24

Take time to celebrate the importance of trees on April 24th! The [Arbor Day Foundation](#) offers many resources on how to celebrate in your family or community, how to get involved with a tree planting event, and many educational resources and celebration materials! More details [here](#).

Community Shred, Pharmaceutical & Electronics Recycling Day – May 3

[Metro Public Works](#) and their partners will be accepting all types of electronics for recycling May 3 from 9:00am-12:00pm at LP Field Lot D including: cell phones, computers, TVs, printer, scanners, video cassettes, CDs, VCRs, DVDs, phone and computer batteries, and more. A Shred-it high speed, mobile, cross shredder will also be on site to safely destroy your personal documents. All shredded documents will be pulped and recycled. Pharmaceutical trash disposal will also be on site. More details [here](#).

Clean Power Plan Discussion – May 18-19

If you are looking for more in depth information on the effects of the EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan, be sure to attend "The Clean Power Plan: Health, Energy Demand and Economic Effects," on May 18-19, in the Flynn Auditorium at Vanderbilt University Law School. Hear from policymakers, scholars and practitioners from several disciplines as they explore different perspectives on the health, energy demand and economic effects of EPA's developing Clean Power Plan. More details [here](#).

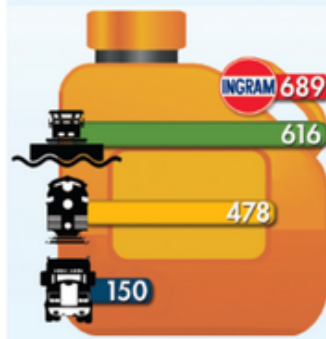


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per Gallon of Fuel



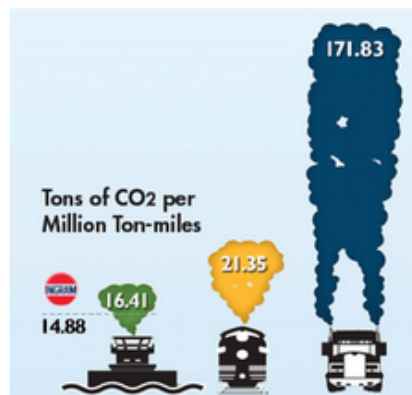
are vital to their operations.

Ingram Barge Company has been a quality marine transporter since 1946, and has grown to become the leading carrier on America's inland waterways.

Ingram's sustainability initiative builds on Ingram's past performance and charts a course for improving environmental operations and the bottom line.

In 2012, a study by the Texas Transportation Institute revealed stunning contrast in fuel efficiencies between highway, rail and waterway transportation modalities. Moreover, it was reported that waterways transport more than 60 percent of the nation's grain exports, 22 percent of petroleum and nearly 20 percent of coal.

Transport by barge has been proven as one of the safest and most energy-efficient modals and is used for a variety of products including coal, grain, aggregate, iron, steel, chemicals and bulk cargo products. Inland waterways allow transport of cargo to as many as 38 states, including Tennessee. With about 12,000 miles of commercially navigable waterways and nearly 200 lock sites, inland – marine highways for freight are a key to many local economies across America. Further, in 2010 inland waterways handled over 566 million tons of freight valued at more than \$180 billion. Click [here](#) for more information about Ingram's sustainable transportation.



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- [Facebook](#) @SustainVU
- [Instagram](#) @SustainVUVanderbilt
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For more information on any of these stories, events and more, visit the SustainVU website at